

I recall the days when broadcast stations would be locally owned and accountable to the entire public they served.

Sadly, today we see conglomerates that serve special interest viewpoints. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

In this way, Sinclair is not acting as the careful steward of a public resource. Instead, they are slanting the 'news' to fit their own agenda. When 'Nightline' read the names of U.S. soldiers who died in combat in Iraq, Sinclair did not allow us to watch in St. Louis. Now they have decided that some anti-Kerry propaganda and slander qualifies as a news program, in which case they claim that 'equal time' does not apply.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.